

THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

P.O.Box 4411

Huntsville, Alabama 35802

US ISSN 0010-1443

J.C.Spilman, Editor

Volume 23, No. 1

April, 1984

Serial No. 67

JAN 21 1919

LIBRARY
HARVARD
COLLEGE

This unique manuscript volume contains the only records covering all the varieties of the Connecticut cents minted by the State of Connecticut between the years of 1785 and 1788, [1785: 24; 1786: 16; 1787: 58; 1788: 28], both inclusive, made by Thomas Hall, M.D., of Boston, one of the greatest authorities on American Coinage. His "A Descriptive List of the Coppers, Issued by Authority, for the State of Connecticut, for the Year, 1787," privately printed by him in Boston, 1892, for additions and corrections, is the only critical one published devoted exclusively to Connecticut Coinage.

This volume and the accompanying collection of 126 coins, upon the death of Dr. Hall, came into the possession of the late Robert Bird, Town Treasurer of Canton, Massachusetts. At his death the collection and Records were purchased in 1918 by Frank H. Shumway, a native of Windham, Connecticut, living in Mattapan, Massachusetts, from whom it was secured by the State Library, Jan. 21, 1919.

Geo. S. Godard
State Librarian

2

350.2
1/2/19
H. B. 1984

Accession Notice -- Dr. Hall's "Later Notes" on Connecticut's

Sequential page 849

Copyright © 1984 by The Colonial Newsletter Foundation, Inc.

Earliest Illustration of the 1776 Continental Currency Coinage

● ● from Eric P. Newman; St. Louis, MO

I have located what I believe to be the earliest illustration and reference to the 1776 Continental Currency Coinage. It is fascinating because it contains a German translation of the legend on the piece. The translation "Mind your business" re-translates into "Thinking what is ahead of you." The translation of "Continental Currency" is re-translated into "Americaland Money" or into "Territory of America Money."



3) An entwined ribbon forming a circle, each small circle has the name of one of the 13 States; in the center are the words "CONGRESS VON AMERICA" around "WIR SIND EINS." 4) The words "AMERICANISCHE LANDES MUNTZE 1776" surround a picture of the sun shining on a sun-dial reading "Ich Fliehe" and "Bedenkt was ihr Vorhabt."

The source - a German publication "Allgemeines historisches Taschenbuch" (Everyone's History Pocketbook) was prepared by Matthias Christian Sprengel and published in Berlin, Germany in 1784 by the firm of Haude & Spener.

Previously, the earliest known reference to the Continental Currency Coinage was the description in Chemical Essays by Richard Watson, London, 1786, Volume IV, pages 135-137. (See Crosby "Early Coins of America" pages 305-306).

Another writer, prior to Crosby, had taken note of the description in Chemical Essays and had taken issue with it. In the Thursday January 1, 1789 issue of Independent Chronicle and the Universal Advertiser (Boston), page 2, column 2, appears the following observation:

The following extract from the learned Bishop Watson's Chemical Essays, (Published in 1786) Vol. 4, page 136, shows how easily strange errors are introduced into the writings even of careful men, when they write on any subject relative to distant countries. It is probable that some workman amused himself with copying one of the small bills emitted by Congress, into a die or mould, and then impressed or cast a piece of Pewter such as the Bishop has described. -- If the author of that work should publish a future edition it is hoped that clause will be omitted.

Then follows the complete text from Chemical Essays. The editor of the Independent Chronicle notwithstanding, another edition of Chemical Essays did follow containing the identical report (the 1791 edition) which would be reported by Crosby in "Early Coins of America." Evidently Crosby was not aware of the first edition (1786) of Chemical Essays.

● ● Editor's note:

If any of our Patrons know of any earlier literary reference to the Continental Currency Coinage, please bring it to our attention.

